



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 600

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSC SETS HEARING SCHEDULE IN CASE WHERE AQUILA SEEKS TO SELL ITS GAS SYSTEM TO THE EMPIRE DISTRICT GAS COMPANY

JEFFERSON CITY--The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold hearings **March 15-16, 2006** on a request filed by Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P, The Empire District Gas Company and The Empire District Electric Company.

The joint application seeks Commission authority for Aquila to sell, transfer and assign certain assets and liabilities regarding its natural gas system in Missouri to The Empire District Gas Company. The Empire District Gas Company is a newly formed, wholly owned subsidiary of The Empire District Electric Company.

The hearings on March 15-16, 2006, will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Anyone needing additional accommodations to participate in the proceedings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearings.

Aquila, Inc. provides natural gas service to approximately 48,500 customers in Missouri.

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Case No. GO-2006-0205